

Message Text

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21

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TAGS: CG, PINT

SUBJ: POLITICAL BUREAU NAMES CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

1. DURING MEETING ABOARD PRESIDENTIAL YACHT OCTOBER 9 - 12 POLITICAL BUREAU NAMED 244 CANDIDATES (AND 244 ALTERNATES) FOR SAME NUMBER OF SEATS IN ZAIRE'S NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. UNDER THE COUNTRY'S ONE-PARTY SYSTEM, NOMINATION BY MPR IS TANTAMOUNT TO ELCTION. FORMALITIES WILL, HOWEVER, BE OBSERVED WITH "ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN" OPENING OCTOBER 19, LEADING TO "ELECTION" NOVEMBER 2. THREE DAYS AFTER ANNOUNCING THE 244 NAMES, POLITICAL BUREAU MET AGAIN TO SCRATCH THREE CANDIDATES, ONE OF WHOM IT ACCUSED OF SWINDLING, THE OTHER TWO OF "SUBERSIVE BEHAVIOR".

2. WHILE ABOARD YACHT, POLITICAL BUREAU WAS BRIEFED BY MOBUTU ON RECENT VISIT OF BELGIAN PM TINDEMANS. ALSO DISCUSSED WERE: ANGOLAN SITUATION (NO DETAILS), PLANS FOR NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF MOBUTU'S 45TH BRITHDAY, HIGH COST OF LIVING, AND SCARCITY OF FOOD AND FUEL. PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WOULD HAVE TO BE CUT TO ABSORB ADDTIONAL 54 MILLION ZAIRES (\$108M) IN PETROLEUM COSTS UNFORSEEN IN NATIONAL BUDGET.
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